

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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JASON LAFAYETTE,

Petitioner,

Case No. 1:19-cv-487

v.

Honorable Paul L. Maloney

SHERRY BURT,

Respondent.

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**ORDER DENYING APPLICATION TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

This is a habeas corpus action brought by a state prisoner under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner has requested leave of court to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 3) under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1) and has filed an affidavit of indigence. The filing fee for a habeas corpus action is \$5.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The Court should only grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* when it reasonably appears that paying the cost of this filing fee would impose an undue financial hardship. *Prows v. Kastner*, 842 F.2d 138, 140 (5th Cir. 1988). It is not unreasonable to require a prisoner to devote a small portion of his discretionary funds to defray a fraction of the costs of his litigation. *See Lumbert v. Ill. Dep't of Corr.*, 827 F.2d 257, 267 (7th Cir. 1987).

Petitioner has filed a trust account statement, which shows that over the past six months Petitioner has had an average monthly deposit of \$122.27. At the time of filing his petition, Petitioner had a spendable balance of \$30.77. Petitioner's financial documents indicate that he has sufficient resources to pay the \$5.00 filing fee. Therefore, Petitioner is not entitled to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action. Petitioner has 28 days from the date of entry of this order to pay the

\$5.00 filing fee. If Petitioner fails to pay the filing fee within the 28-day period, his case will be dismissed without prejudice. Accordingly:

**IT IS ORDERED** that Petitioner's application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 3) is **DENIED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that within 28 days hereof, Petitioner shall pay the \$5.00 filing fee to the Clerk of this Court. Petitioner's failure to comply with this order will result in dismissal of this case without prejudice.

Dated: August 19, 2019

/s/ Paul L. Maloney  
Paul L. Maloney  
United States District Judge

**SEND REMITTANCES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

Clerk, U.S. District Court  
399 Federal Building  
110 Michigan Street, NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**All checks or other forms of payment shall be payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court."**